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| 09/656,484      | 09/07/2000  | Francine A. Alford   | IL-10518            | 2324             |

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| EXAMINER |
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LU, KUEN S

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2167

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/656,484

Applicant(s)

ALFORD ET AL.

Examiner

Kuen S Lu

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendments*

1. The Action is responsive to the Applicant's Amendments, filed on July 1, 2004. The Examiner noted that amendments were made to every claim. Also noted is claims 25-30 were cancelled.
2. In responding to Applicant's Amendments made to the independent claims 1 and 16, new issues were raised when all of the originally presented limitations in the claims were cancelled and replaced with amended limitations.
3. As for the Applicant's Remarks on claim rejections, filed on July 1, 2004, has been fully considered by the Examiner, please see discussion in the section ***Response to Arguments***, following the Office Action for Final Rejection.
4. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Goldman et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0135853, hereafter "Goldman").

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by OraCon (Oracle® Applications, Concepts, Release 11i, May 2000, Oracle Corporation, hereafter "OraCon"), in view of OraMRP (Oracle® Master Scheduling/MRP and Supply Chain Planning Guide, Release 11i, January 2000, Oracle®, hereafter "OraMRP"), OraHR (Using Oracle® HRMS – The Fundamentals [US], Release 11i, January 2000, Oracle®, hereafter "OraHR") and OraPO (Oracle® Purchasing User's Guide, Release 11i, January 2000, Oracle®, hereafter "OraPO").

As per claims 1 and 16, OraCon teaches the following:

"a network" (See Figs. 1-4 and Pages 12-16 wherein OraCon's Oracle 11i applications are deployed on network architecture, including WAN and internet is equivalent to Applicant's a network);

"a product data management means coupled to said network" (See Figs. 1-4 and Pages 12-16 wherein OraCon's product planning is managed by Oracle 11i application Manufacturing and Distribution in the application tier, and associated database server in the database tier in a network platform is equivalent to Applicant's a product data management means coupled to said network);

"a knowledge management means coupled to said network, said knowledge management means including a central repository database" (See Figs. 1-4, and Pages 12-16 and 20 wherein OraCon's database resource manager manages the database, the Manufacturing and Distribution module manages the product manufacturing application and Purchasing module manages the purchasing application are among the

modules combined to form the knowledge management means is equivalent to Applicant's a knowledge management means coupled to said network, said knowledge management means including a central repository database ); and "a requisition application means coupled to said network" (See Figs. 1-4, and Pages 12-16 and 13 wherein OraCon's Oracle 11i application Oracle Purchasing of the Enterprise Resource Planning on the network architecture manages requisition is equivalent to Applicant's a requisition application means coupled to said network).

OraCon does not specifically teach "a job specification that is created in said product management module", although Oracle Manufacturing and Distribution teaches product planning in general as previously described.

However, OraMRP teaches setting up Human Resources key flexfield in the common-application setup at Page 1-10.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine the teachings of OraCon and OraMRP because both references are dedicated to ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) where OraCon teaches ERP concepts in general while OraMRP specifically teaches one of its modules, product manufacturing management, and the combined reference would have enabled users of OraMRP to comprehend a specific application module, such as OraMRP, from an integrated general application, the ERP.

The combined OraCon and OraMRP reference does not, specifically enough, teach "job specification that is created in said product management module", although OraMRP teaches human resources common-application setup as previously described.

On the other hand, OraHR teaches defining job and position at Page 3-6.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to further combine the teachings of OraHR with the combined OraCon and OraMRP reference because all references are dedicated to planning enterprise resources, and the further combined reference would have enabled ERP an integrated management tool to manage all inter-related and mutually required enterprise resources as a whole.

The OraMRP or OraHR module of the integrated Oracle 11i ERP application does not individually or in combination to provide specifically the teaching of "vendor information that is created in said central repository database of said knowledge management module".

However, OraPO teaches "vendor information that is created in said central repository database of said knowledge management module" (See Page 1-7 wherein OraPO's required steps of setting up suppliers in the database is equivalent to Applicant's vendor information that is created in said central repository database of said knowledge management module).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to further combine the teachings of OraPO with OraCon, OraMRP and OraHR references because all references are dedicated to planning enterprise resources of an integrated application, and the further combined reference would have enabled ERP as an integrated management tool to manage all inter-related and mutually collaborated enterprise resources as a whole.

OraMRP further teaches “engineering records that are created in said central repository database of said knowledge management module” (See Page 9-7 wherein OraMRP’s product family items represent groups of items related similarities in design in the database is equivalent to Applicant’s engineering records that are created in said central repository database of said knowledge management module).

As per claims 2 and 17, OraCon teaches “network is a global network” (See Figs. 1-4 and Pages 12-16 wherein OraCon’s Oracle 11i applications are deployed on network architecture, including WAN and internet is equivalent to Applicant’s network is a global network).

As per claim 3, OraCon teaches “network is a local network” (See Figs. 1-4 and Pages 12-16 and 40 wherein OraCon’s Oracle 11i applications are deployed on network architecture, including network, WAN and internet suggests the teaching of network is a local network).

As per claims 4 and 18, OraCon teaches “network is a local network comprising a local area network or a token-ring network or an Ethernet network” (See Figs. 1-4 and Pages 12-16 and 40 wherein OraCon’s Oracle 11i applications are deployed on network architecture, including network, WAN and internet suggests the teaching of a local area network or a token-ring network or an Ethernet network).

As per claims 5 and 21, OraMRP teaches “knowledge management module includes an engineering records center” (See Page 9-4 wherein OraMRP’s products are grouped into families of similarities in design where OraMRP module is the center for the records of items of a product family suggest the teaching of knowledge management module includes an engineering records center).

As per claim 6, OraPO teaches “knowledge management module includes a vendor authorization center” (See 2-28 wherein OraPO’s approved supplier list is the center every supplier must be in this current list for providing items required is equivalent to Applicant’s knowledge management module includes a vendor authorization center).

As per claims 7 and 23, OraPO teaches “requisition application system includes an online requisition system” (See Pages C-53 and C-109 wherein OraPO’s purchase order approval workflow is equivalent to Applicant’s requisition application system includes an online requisition system).

As per claim 8, OraCon teaches “a website coupled to said network and wherein said website” (See Pages 13-14 and 18 wherein OraCon’s the Oracle 11i ERP modules are form and web based application is equivalent to Applicant’s a website coupled to said network and wherein said website).



As per claim 9, OraPO teaches "a website coupled to said network and wherein said vendor information is posted on said web site" (See Page 9-145 wherein OraPO's web requisition is equivalent to Applicant's a website coupled to said network and wherein said vendor information is posted on said web site).

As per claims 10, 19 and 22, the Oracle 11i application ERP modules teaches "procurement system of claim 1, including a website coupled to said network and wherein said job specification and said vendor information are posted on said website" (See OraPO: Page 9-145 wherein OraPO's web requisition is equivalent to Applicant's a website coupled to said network and wherein said vendor information are posted on said website, and OraHR: Page 1-6 web based recruitment is equivalent to Applicant's a website coupled to said network and wherein said job specification is posted on said website).

As per claims 11 and 20, OraCon teaches "central repository database includes an application programming interface API which controls access to said engineering records" (See Figs. 1-4 and Pages 12-16 wherein OraCon's the Application Tier is the application programming interface API which controls access to the Database Tier, the engineering records repository in the Oracle 11i applications is equivalent to Applicant's central repository database includes an application programming interface API which controls access to said engineering records).

As per claim 12, OraPO teaches "requisition application system includes online ordering information" (See Page 4-20 wherein OraPO's purchase order information is displayed is equivalent to Applicant's requisition application system includes online ordering information).

As per claim 13, OraCon teaches "a central repository database includes a central repository database management program" (See Figs. 1-4 and Pages 12-16 wherein OraCon's Oracle 8i database is the central repository database managed by the data server in the Oracle 11i application's database tier is equivalent to Applicant's a central repository database includes a central repository database management program).

As per claims 14 and 24, OraCon teaches "central repository database includes a central repository database management program that is a collaborative environment software program" (See Figs. 1-4 and Pages 12-16 wherein OraCon's the Oracle 11i application includes a set of application modules accessing the central database repository in the database tier is equivalent to Applicant's central repository database includes a central repository database management program that is a collaborative environment software program).

As per claim 15, OraCon teaches "central repository database management program is Livelink®" (See Pages 20 and 23-24 wherein OraCon's database manager, enterprise manager and application manager manage the central database repository is

equivalent to Applicant's "central repository database management program" provided by a proprietary product.

***Response to Arguments***

6. The Applicant's arguments filed on July 1, 2004 have been considered but they are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection for the new issues introduced in the amendments, filed on July 1, 2004.

5. The prior art made of record

U. Oracle® Applications, Concepts, Release 11i, May 2000, Oracle Corporation

V. Oracle® Master Scheduling/MRP and Supply Chain Planning Guide, Release 11i, January 2000, Oracle®

W. Using Oracle® HRMS – The Fundamentals [US], Release 11i, January 2000, Oracle®

X. Oracle® Purchasing User's Guide, Release 11i, January 2000, Oracle®

**Conclusions**

8. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.

The Applicants are reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

Art Unit: 2167

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. The prior art made of record, listed on form PTO-892, and not relied upon, if any, is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

If a reference indicated as being mailed on PTO-FORM 892 has not been enclosed in this action, please contact Lisa Craney whose telephone number is 571-272-3574 for faster service.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuen S Lu whose telephone number is 571-272-4114.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Kuen S. Lu

  
Patent Examiner

March 31, 2005



Luke Wassum

Primary Examiner

March 31, 2005